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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Ecuador:* draft resolution

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Declaration,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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Recalling also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[6] and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),[7]

Recalling further its resolution 2016/15 of 26 July 2016 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 71/238 of 21 December 2016,

Noting the theme of its high-level segment of 2017, "Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions through promoting sustainable development, expanding opportunities and addressing related challenges" and the theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2017, "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020;[8]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (h) good governance at all levels;

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Acknowledges* the potential of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries to foster productive capacity, structural transformation, poverty eradication and sustainable development in the least developed countries, welcomes in this regard the establishment of the Technology Bank by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/251 of 23 December 2016, and in this context encourages Member States, especially developed countries, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, to provide voluntary financial contributions and operational support to the Technology Bank to ensure its early operationalization and effective operation;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* that, while the least developed countries are in need of increased global support, bilateral official development assistance (ODA) declined considerably in 2016 compared with 2015, and underlines the urgent need to reverse the decline, while expressing its appreciation to those few countries that have met or surpassed their commitment to 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) for ODA and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNI for ODA to the least developed countries, calls upon ODA providers to fulfil their ODA commitments to

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[4] General Assembly resolution 69/313.
[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.
[6] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.
[7] General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.
[8] A/72/83-E/2017/60.

the least developed countries, and encourages them to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.2 per cent ODA/GNI to the least developed countries;

6. *Expresses its concern* that foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries retreated by 13 per cent in 2016 compared with 2015, underlines the need to substantially increase foreign direct investment flows to the least developed countries, recognizes in this regard that private capital flows, in particular foreign direct investment, play a complementary and catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in the least developed countries, and calls upon the least developed countries to continue to strengthen the underlying investment climate and upon development partners to continue to provide enhanced financial and technical support to those countries so as to develop their productive capacities;

7. *Invites* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene a full session, at its next forum on financing for development follow-up, on adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on the matter, including its resolution 2016/15, and recalls that the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum will be fed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] in the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

8. *Recalls* General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, underscores that the efforts of the least developed countries towards sustainable graduation are underpinned by their ownership and leadership, as the primary responsibility for development lies with the countries themselves, but that they need to be supported by concrete and substantial international partnership measures in a spirit of mutual accountability for development results, emphasizes the need for a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and encourages development and trading partners and the United Nations system to continue their support for the implementation of transition strategies for the least developed countries, as well as for smooth transition for graduated countries, and to avoid any abrupt reductions in either ODA or technical assistance provided to the graduated countries;

9. *Recognizes* the importance of the reviews by the Committee for Development Policy of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries, recommends that the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all aspects of the evolving international development context, including relevant agendas, and in this regard takes note of the decision of the Committee to implement a multi-year work programme for a comprehensive review of the least developed country criteria[9] and looks forward to its review;

10. *Reiterates* that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into development policies, and in this regard takes note of the survey conducted by the Committee for Development Policy to collect information on the recognition and application of the least developed country category by entities of the United Nations development system and the Committee's recommendations;[10]

11. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments

[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2017, Supplement No. 13* (E/2017/33), chap. I, sect. B, para. 12.

[10] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A, para. 5.

undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

12. *Welcomes* the fact that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[4] the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[6] and the New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)[7] underscore that the most vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, deserve special attention and reflect the concerns and aspirations of the least developed countries, recalls the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

13. *Expresses its serious concern* at the fact that the share of expenditure for operational activities for development of the United Nations system in the least developed countries is declining, urges the United Nations development system to continue to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries, while reaffirming that the least developed countries, as the most vulnerable group of countries, need enhanced support to overcome structural challenges that they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and requests the United Nations development system to provide assistance to graduating countries in the formulation and implementation of their national transition strategies and to consider country-specific support for graduated countries for a fixed period of time and in a predictable manner;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 2018 session, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020" of the item entitled "Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.